

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
PULLMAN, WASHINGTON

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF  
COLFAX GERmplasm LEWIS' MOCKORANGE  
SELECTED CLASS OF NATURAL GERmplasm

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture announces the release of a selected ecotype of LEWIS' MOCKORANGE (*Philadelphus lewisii*).

Species:	<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i> Pursh.
Common Name:	Lewis' mockorange
Plant Symbol:	PHLE4
Accession Numbers:	9033808, T33808

**Origin:** Native plants near Colfax, Whitman County, Washington at 2040 feet elevation, Major Land Resource Area B-9 (Palouse and Nez Perce Prairies).

**Description:** Colfax Germplasm mockorange is a deciduous shrub up to 6 feet 6 inches in height and 5 feet in width. It has excellent stem and foliage abundance. Plants tended to be taller and grow faster than others evaluated in the planting.

Colfax represents six plants surviving of the six original plants.

**Method of Selection:** It was selected from a Pullman Plant Materials Center study of 122 Lewis' mockorange accessions, 118 of which were planted in the field. The study was evaluated from 1986- 1997. Colfax was rated excellent in vigor, stem and leaf abundance and fruit production. It was a taller and had a wider canopy than the planting average.

**Areas of Adaptation:** Lewis' mockorange is a cold hardy species found on well-drained, moist sites in full sunlight to partial shade. It occurs in drier areas of Washington and Idaho with as little as 15 inches precipitation. It grows on deep, rich alluvial loams to rocky or gravelly loams. It may be commonly found on rocky sites, at the base of talus slopes and cliffs, along streams, in seasonally moist draws and on talus margins in the Columbia River Basin. It grows best on northern and eastern exposures.

It occurs from near sea level to 7000 feet elevation. Its native range is from extreme southern British Columbia, south to California and east to North and central Idaho, western Montana and southwestern Alberta.

Lewis' mockorange is most vigorous in seral shrub communities. It is an early to mid-seral species, occurring in seral shrubfields. It commonly occurs in open coniferous forests, at forest edges and is commonly associated with other shrubs. On the western Cascade Range in Oregon, it is associated with beaked hazelnut, oceanspray, poison-oak, baldhip rose and holly leafed barberry. It is associated with ninebark on talus slopes in western Montana. In eastern Oregon it is associated with willows, alders and hawthorns. It occurs with red-osier dogwood and Saskatoon serviceberry in north-central Washington. It is often associated with other shrubs in other areas.

**Ecological Considerations and Evaluation:** Numerous references were used in preparation of the initial study plan, in this release notice and the "documentation" for release. See documentation for list of references. Field observations of actual natural stands of mockorange were used during the collection period to the present. Also, observations were noted during the evaluation of the initial planting at the Pullman, Washington Plant Materials Center. No adverse effects to the environment were noted.

**Anticipated Conservation Use:** The primary potential use is in rehabilitation efforts in riparian areas in the Pacific Northwest. Other uses occur in diversity enhancement, wildlife grazing and shelterbelt plantings. It is an excellent plant for erosion control on streambanks and other sites with adequate moisture. It is an attractive plant for landscaping as a screen or hedge. Conservation practices that may use mockorange plantings include Channel Vegetation, Conservation Cover, Critical Area Planting, Riparian Forest Buffer and Streambank and Shoreline Protection.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):** An Environmental Evaluation worksheet was completed according to the NRCS National Plant Materials Manual, Exhibit 540-31 and attached to the release documentation.

**Availability of Plant Materials:** The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Plant Materials Center, Pullman, Washington will maintain breeder genetic material and will make material available on a limited basis to nurseries and researchers.


**References:** See list in the Documentation for the "Selected" Release of Colfax Germplasm Lewis' Mockorange

**Prepared by:** NRCS, Pullman Plant Materials Center, 104 Hulbert Hall, Pullman, WA 99164


Notice of Release of Colfax Germplasm Lewis' mockorange  
(continued)

Signatures for release of:

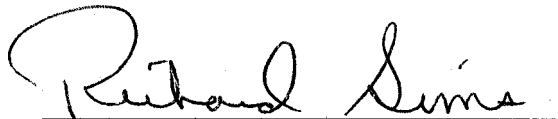
Colfax Germplasm Lewis' mockorange

  
Raymond E. Hughbanks  
State Conservationist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Spokane, Washington

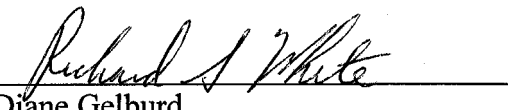
9/28/2001  
Date

  
ROBERT J. GRAHAM  
State Conservationist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Portland, Oregon

11/13/01  
Date

  
RICHARD W. SIMS  
State Conservationist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Boise, Idaho

10/15/01  
Date

  
for Diane Gelburd  
Deputy Chief for Science and Technology  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Washington, D.C.

1/22/02  
Date